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THE IRON SOLDIER

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

CAMP SHELBY, MS

IRON SOLDIERS RECEIVE ARMORED VEHICLES

By Capt. Alfred A. Smith

If you go to Motor Pool 5 on Mobilization Center Shelby, you will see and hear workers utilizing impact wrenches, saws, drills and hammers. The workers of Defense Support Services (DSS) produce this welcomed sound, as they attach the "Add on Armor" (AOA) kits to military vehicles.

Armored vehicles have become the most coveted vehicles for

soldiers in the Iraq Theater of Operation and Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team who are preparing for deployment. "The soldiers who are mobilizing here are glad to see it go on. They get a chance to see it and operate on it before they get over there," said Maintenance Officer Maj. Pat Lowery.

The vehicles receiving the (AoA) are the M923A2 - 5 Ton Cargo Trucks and the M998 HMMWVs. Each 5-ton truck will receive about 4,500 pounds of armor, which completely encases the cab to protect the crew. Coupled with 3 inch thick glass on the front windshield and 2 1/2" thick glass on the side windows, the new armored 5 ton trucks are equipped to defend against Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and are impenetrable to most weapons systems used by insurgents. "I feel a lot safer knowing I will be driving this truck in Iraq," said Sgt. Jeffrey Huseby, assistant driver with the 2-222 Field Artillery from Bountiful, Utah. The HMMWVs will receive approximately 1,200 pounds of armor and the ballistic proof glass.



A worker from Defense Support Services works diligently as he adds a layer of armor to a M998 HMMWV.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricciottoli

Both vehicles will also be equipped with powerful air conditioning systems which will help the crews remain cool inside the protection of the thick armor, even under the most

extreme temperature conditions. The one added creature comfort that the 5-ton trucks will have over the HMMWVs will be "Air Pressurized Seats." "These armored vehicles will be the most popular ride

in Iraq," said Maintenance Officer for the 2-28 BCT 2nd Lt. Jeremy Coleman.

The 16-man DSS crew is extremely patriotic and hard working. One of the workers is a Vietnam Veteran, and some of them are veterans of the first Gulf War. All of them, however, volunteered for this specific assignment. "This is their way of doing our part to help fight the war against terrorism,"

"I feel a lot safer knowing I will be driving this truck in Iraq" said Sgt. Jeffrey Huseby, assistant driver with the 222 Field artillery from Bountiful, Utah.

said one of the workers. The crew began armoring the vehicles on March 6th and worked around the clock averaging 12 hour days, 7 days a

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Congratulations to the following soldiers on their Promotions

-  Jaclyn Chudoba, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Kevin Reber, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Bradford Thompson, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Mark Benner, B Co. 228 FSB
-  Brandi Liska, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Trina Billett, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Teresa Morris, A Co. 228 FSB
-  Rodney Rough, HHD, 228 FSB
-  Regis A. Cardiff, 2/28 BCT

A MESSAGE FROM IRON 6



COL (P) John L. Gronski
2/28 BCT Commander

The Iron Soldiers of 2nd Brigade Combat Team / 28th Infantry Division are rocking. We are building combat power and getting stronger everyday. Our Citizen Soldiers are well trained, well disciplined individuals that will be very fair but also very firm. The 2/28th BCT is a strong and dedicated force – a force to be reckoned with. It is the fighting spirit of the soldier that will win this battle, but it is our great family support team that will give us the mental strength to complete our mission.

Our Iron Brigade will be victorious by maintaining an offensive spirit. We will perform our mission superbly by aggressively seizing the initiative and staying on the offense. We will treat the Iraqi people with dignity and respect, and we will act decisively to deter the terrorist element. We will force the enemy to react to us and will continually pursue the insurgents in an attempt to destroy or capture them. Our soldiers are professionals, fierce and aggressive, yet caring and compassionate. The 2nd BCT is prepared to assist the newly elected government and the Iraqi Security Forces by providing stability and support for the country of Iraq, and help bring freedom and security to the Iraqi people.

The Iron Soldiers will have every advantage, to include competent and confident leadership, the best training, and the best equipment ever fielded. The equipment our soldiers are supplied with offers both protection and firepower. This new equipment will help us work toward our goal of returning everyone home safely.

Our soldiers and their loved ones are great Americans. I am proud of the dedication and professionalism displayed towards our country during this Global War on Terror. Just being around our Iron Soldiers is inspiring and makes me proud to be a part of this great Brigade, which is made up of thousands of dedicated soldiers from across our beloved country. We all understand that our mission in Iraq helps to keep our families safe at home and helps to make the future of our loved ones safer and more secure. I echo the words of George Orwell with a slight modification when I say, "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because our brave men and women stand ready to fight on their behalf."

Families, rest assured, your soldiers are well cared for, and morale is high in the Iron Brigade. You are our secret weapon, a tremendous force multiplier.

Thank you for your outstanding support.

NO GPS? NO PROBLEM!

by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scariaciottoli

In today's modern world, it is very easy to become dependent on technology. Ask a soldier to get from one point to another and chances are that he or she will grab a Global Positioning System (GPS) and head off confident of not getting lost.

The army issues the Precision Lightweight GPS Receiver (PLGR), which is extremely effective and capable of telling a soldier their location to within 10 meters. A soldier can plot up to 999 navigation points and the PLGR will not only show you exactly how to get there but also estimate the time it will take to get to that point.

The PLGR allowed the United States army to navigate the vast Iraqi desert in 1991. At that time the technology was so advanced that the PLGR was given a lot of credit for winning Desert Storm..

The only thing certain about war is that nothing is certain and as good as the PLGR is, batteries die and equipment fails. For this reason every soldier going through Camp Shelby is receiving Land Navigation training.

This is a back to the basics course, therefore rule number 1 is check your GPS at the door. Soldiers are given a compass, map and protractor and after several hours of refresher training are sent out on a confidence course. The challenging course requires soldiers to find a mini-

mum of 6 out of the 7 points in only 3 hours.

The course is designed to give confidence to all soldiers, however, those who benefit the most are from non-combat arms jobs who have lately found themselves doing combat missions such as convoy escort. "You never know where you'll end up or what you'll be doing" said Sgt. Greg Yardley from Beaver, Utah. As a cook with the 222nd Field Artillery, it is a real possibility that he may end up driving in a convoy and needs to know how to navigate with or without the aid of a GPS. His partner, Spec. Karsten Josie from Panquitch, Utah recalled, "It took us an hour to find the first point but got the hang of it and found the rest of the points in no time." The soldiers found 7 out of 7 points in 2 hours and



Sgt. Greg Yardley from Beaver Utah and Spec. Karsten Josie plot their points on a military map during Land Navigation Training at Camp Shelby MS.

Photo By Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scariaciottoli

40 minutes.

There is no doubt that the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) has a vast toolbox of technology. The insurgents in Iraq will face the most advanced weapons and systems on the planet. What gives the 2nd BCT the greatest advantage over any adversary is the adaptability of the 2 BCT soldier. The 2nd BCT soldiers will bring the modern fight to the insurgents in Iraq but, make no mistake, they can go old school just as effectively.

A PLAN COMES TOGETHER

by Private First Class Andrew Sharkey - B Troop 1/104 Cavalry

There is an old adage that says: "If you fail to plan, than you plan to fail." I paid close attention as my Platoon Leader (PL) and the Non Commis-

sioned Officers explained to us when each phase of the operation would begin, who would provide security, what our goals were and how we would defend the town once the insurgents were captured or killed.



(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT) Sgt. Luke Horstman, Sgt. 1st Class Bob Monahan, Staff Sgt. Jeff Murtha and Spec. Joe Lewis of the 104th U.S. Cavalry from Philadelphia, PA utilizes a sand table to demonstrate how their platoon is going to seal off a mock Iraqi village.

Photo By Private Andrew Sharkey

Making the first move would be Staff Sgt. Jason Fisher and the 1st Squad. Made up of members from the 104th Long Range Surveillance Detachment, they know how to sneak around. Hence they were given the task of breaching any obstacles.

The 3rd Squad is made up of mostly tankers. On paper, they may not seem the best choice for dismounted operations, however, in reality they have a lot of experience and have no problem with getting their boots muddy. Tasked with exploiting any breach, Staff Sgt. Timothy Sholly and his crew were geared up and ready to go.

Sgt. Danal Irvin and the 2nd Squad were loaded with Squad Automatic Weapons and Sniper Rifles. Their job was to provide cover to the other two squads while they conducted their operations.

The plan was good and got better after some sand table drills and rehearsals. The only question that remained was if the plan held up after the first bullet was fired.

As the mission got underway a seven foot high wall presented the first

challenge to the platoon. It was quickly decided that some planks found near the wall would be used for the breach. As the 4' X 10' boards were retrieved, a

barrage of small arms fire came from the town.

2nd Squad responded just as planned and went into action. Their weapons erupted into a curtain of cover fire. We all knew that 2nd Squad would not be able to sustain the cover fire

for very long. The plan was starting to come apart.

As I looked around for one of the leaders to decide our next move, I noticed Spec. George Chudnofsky and Spec. Joe Lewis holding one of the planks at about shoulder height. On top of the board was Sgt. Luke Horstman firing against the insurgents with his M-249 SAW. Being closer to the town, he was able to lay down very accurate fire but also drew fire from the insurgents.

Seeing that most of 3rd Squad had become pinned down in the fire fight, Sgt. Fisher took some initiative and advanced on the town. The move was so swift that the insurgents could not adjust to the advancing squad. The move also had the effect of drawing fire away from 3rd Squad so they were able to advance as well.

Now with 2 complete squads on the

objective, the PL made the quick decision to search multiple houses simultaneously. Now that the insurgents were busy with 1st and 3rd squads, 2nd Squad moved forward to establish a Command Post (CP) and Casualty Collection Point (CCP) in one of the houses that was already cleared.

Everything was going well when a loud explosion could be heard. When I turned the corner, I could see an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) had detonated off near one of the squads and 2 soldiers were down. I ran to the first soldier but it was too late. Staff Sgt. Jeff Murtha was already dead. There was no time for remorse as I ran to the 2nd soldier. Private Ralph Swartz had some shrapnel in his arm. I dug into my Combat Life Savers (CLS) bag and quickly patched him up. I then rushed him over to the CCP.

Not long after getting to the CCP, the gunfire ceased. All the insurgents were dead or captured. During the After Action Review (AAR), the observer controller (OC) pointed out some things we could have did better but overall said that we did a great job. We learned that even though the mission did not go exactly as planned, having the plan to



Soldiers from the 104th Cavalry advance to cordon off a mock Iraqi village during Theater Imersion training at Camp Shelby, MS.

Photo By Private Andrew Sharkey

guide us lead to success. We also learned that there is no substitute for the ingenuity, adaptability, and tenacity that can only be found in the United States Cavalry.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli

The M109A6 Paladin Self-Propelled Howitzer provides a revolutionary advance in performance, responsiveness and survivability over older M109s. Able to operate independently, it has a firing range up to 30 km with the standard M284 39-caliber 155mm main armament which fires a 98 pound shell. "98 pounds is a 2 man lift unless you're in the military" laughs Spec. Justin Crandall of Ferdonia, AZ, a loader with Bravo Battery 2-222 Field Artillery.

From the move, the M109A6 Paladin can receive a fire mission, compute firing data, select and take up firing positions, automatically unlock and point its cannon, fire the first round in under 60 seconds and move -- day or night. "We average about 30 seconds" states Staff Sgt. William Haggerty of Cypress, CA, a Paladin commander also with Bravo Battery. This "shoot and scoot" capability not only significantly improves responsiveness to calls for fire, it also protects the vehicle and



An M-109 Paladin from the 2-222 Field Artillery firing out of Forward Operations Base Hurricane at Camp Shelby, MS.

Photo by Capt. Adam Warren



Spec. Justin Crandall of Bravo Battery inspects the breach of the M248 main gun of the Paladin.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

crew from counterbattery fire, significantly improving survivability.

Paladin features include an Automatic Fire Control System with onboard ballistic computation and automatic weapon pointing, an integrated inertial navigation system with embedded GPS processing, NBC protection with climate control, hydraulics system segregation, and secure voice and digital communications. The hull, turret, suspension and automotive upgrades significantly increase reliability, providing 40 percent greater operational availability than previous versions of the M109. On board, embedded electronic diagnostics improve maintenance and repair functions.

The Paladin is supported by the M992A2 Field Artillery Ammunition Supply Vehicle (FASSV) which can carry an additional 12,000 pounds of ammunition.

A NEW EAGLE IN THE NEST

by Staff Sgt. Holly Dami - HHC 2/28 BCT

Regis A. Cardiff was promoted to the rank of Colonel on March 18th, 2005 but began his military service as an enlisted soldier in the US Army Security Agency in 1970. After attending Officer Candidate School at FT Benning, GA, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on August 25th, 1980. His military education includes the Infantry Officers Basic Course, the Armor Officers Advance Course, Command and General Staff School and the Defense Strategy Course at the US Army War College. Colonel Cardiff served as a Scout Platoon Leader, Mortar Platoon Leader, Company XO, Infantry Company Commander, Battalion S1, S2, S3 and S4. He became Battalion Commander of 1st Bn 110th Infantry and later became the XO of 2d Brigade, 28th Infantry Division prior to his present assignment as Deputy Commander, 2 Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division.

Colonel Cardiff has been involved in numerous state activation's to include: Monongahela Flood of 1986, the Oil Spill of 1990 and many snow emergencies in Western Pennsylvania.

Colonel Cardiff participated in the Partnership for Peace Program, by assisting the Lithuanian Army with command and

staff training. He also participated in a BALTOPS Exercise, which is a Multi-National, Joint Operation SOSO conducted in Bornholm, Denmark.



Col. John L. Gronski, pins the rank of Colonel on to the uniform of Regis A. Cardiff. Col. Cardiff is attached to HHC, 2 BCT and a resident of Trafford, PA.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

His awards and decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal with Three Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Overseas Service Medal, Army Overseas Training Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal with Bronze Device, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Army Service Medal, PA Service Ribbon with Four Stars, PA Twenty Year Medal, MG Thomas R. White Medal, and Thomas J. Stewart Medal.

Colonel Cardiff is the Brigade Full Time Administrative Officer. He was born in Braddock, PA. He graduated from Scott High School in North Braddock, PA and later received his BS from Liberty University. He and his wife, the former Janet Bush, reside in Trafford, Pennsylvania. He has two adult children, Keith and

Kristopher and one grand daughter, Ella.

THE REASON TO REENLIST by 2nd Lt. Jacques Smith - A Troop 1/167 Cavalry

After a ten year break in service, SGT Martin Zulkoski re-enlisted in the Nebraska Army National Guard so that his son Ryan Zulkoski could gain more rank before entering basic training. Immediately, SGT Zulkoski's thoughts turned to being a positive example for his son, showing him how to become a man and learn the Army Values. SGT Zulkoski's remembered his childhood, and how he looked up to his older brother as a strong male figure. He carried himself with high standards, and excelled in everything he did. As his brother was for him, he wanted to be a role model for his son.

Remembering the positive examples, and the discipline the military establishes in young soldiers, SGT Zulkoski encouraged his son to join the Nebraska Army National Guard. Being able to share the military experience was the driving factor in SGT Zulkoski's decision to re-enlist in December 2003. He says that his son wanting him to re-enlist was a major part of his decision. However the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 also played a ma-

major role. He said, "I didn't want to look back on it when I was 70 years old and say I should have done something". Credit goes to Ryan Zulkoski for jump starting the process that put his father, back in the Nebraska Army National Guard. SGT Martin Zulkoski is a crew serve weapon gunner in A Troop, 1-167 Cavalry.

PFC Ryan Zulkoski is also in the Nebraska National Guard, assigned to 735th Main Support Battalion as a transportation crew member. Ryan also plays football for the University of Nebraska at Kearney and hopes to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He plans to enroll in the ROTC program and commission as an officer..

SGT Zulkoski is highly motivated



Pfc Ryan Zulkoski (Left) and his father Sgt. Martin Zulkoski of the 1/167 Cavalry
Photo By 2nd Lt. Jacques Smith

NCO and encourages the younger members of the Troop to strive for excellence in everything they do. He is a very dedicated father and soldier who portrays strong morals and values. With that, I would like to thank SGT Zulkoski for showing his willingness to give up his civilian and family lifestyle to put the uniform back on and serve his country in its time of need.

NOTHING BUT THE BEST

by Spc. Aaron y Berger - HHC, 228th Forward Support Battalion

On March 11, in preparation for the National Training Center (NTC) and the inevitable trip to Iraq, the 228th just received a duffel bag full of new equipment. Each soldier received two new pairs of desert issue boots, one pair of summers and one pair of winters were issued. These new boots are extremely comfortable and will surely be feet friendly in our upcoming tour of duty.

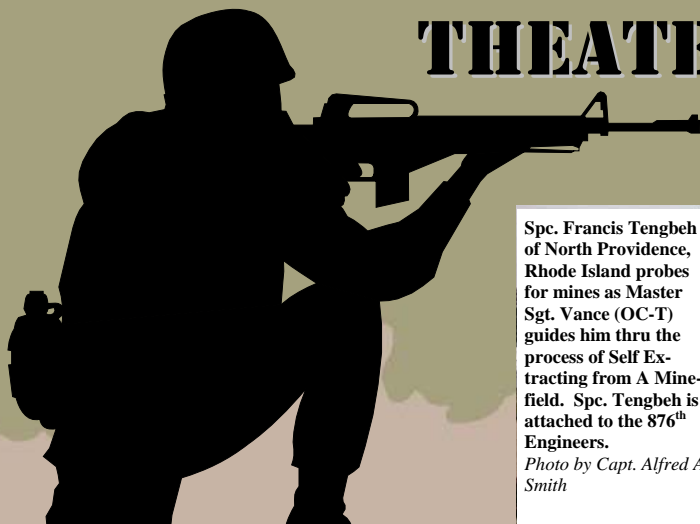
The soldiers were also given the new cold weather gear. It included the new version of poly-pro which is much like the cold weather under armor, as well as the new fleece set. The fleece set includes a thick fleece jacket along with pants that are held up with suspenders, and a fleece cap. Even though it sounds really "Old School", it may be the warmest outfit that I have ever worn and I have a feeling that I will be wearing it often. Next, the soldiers were given all of the Modular Lightweight Load carrying Equipment (MOLLE) accessories such as the



Sgt. Olivia Chenevert from the HHC, 228 FSB displays RFI equipment like the IBA with MOLLE attachments.
Photo By Spc Aaron Berger HHC, 228 FSB

ammo and grenade pouches, canteen pouches, and butt pack and a new slimmer camelback. Wiley-X sunglasses as well as sun, wind, and dust goggles were the highlight of the day for many of the 228th soldiers. The most anticipated issue of the day was the new kevlar helmet. This helmet is almost 2 pounds lighter than the old one and is equipped with the NOD mount as well as the new and more secure chinstrap. This helmet molds to the shape of your head and does not move into your line of sight, much like the old one did. Unfortunately for some of the soldiers with giant craniums like myself, they ran out of XL6 helmets and had to special order one for us. The RFI personnel assured each of us that we would receive them by the time that we arrive in Kuwait. A few weeks down the road, we will also be getting the new Army ACU uniform. It is comforting for all of the 228th FSB soldiers to know that we will be heading into Iraq with the best equipment the Army has to offer.

THEATER IMMERSION TRAINING



Spc. Francis Tengbeh of North Providence, Rhode Island probes for mines as Master Sgt. Vance (OC-T) guides him thru the process of Self Extracting from A Mine-field. Spc. Tengbeh is attached to the 876th Engineers.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



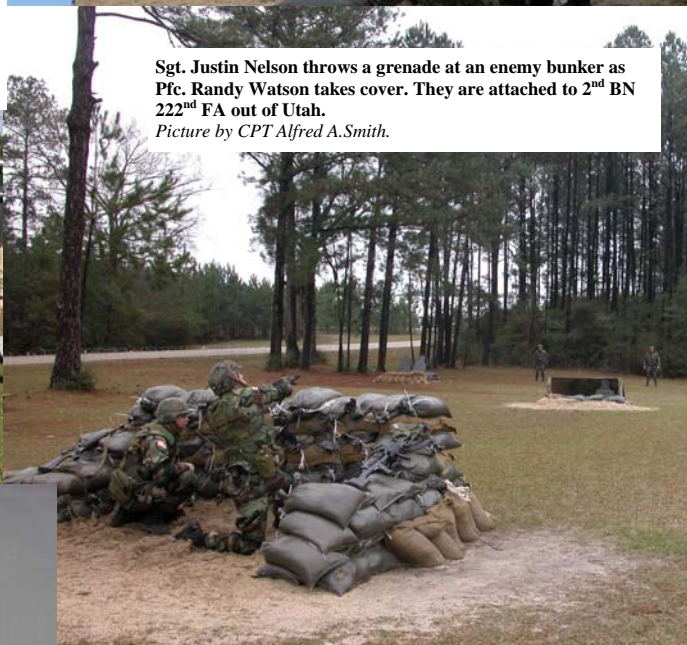
Key leaders of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team 28th Infantry Division, again make history, as they prepare to embark on their Pre Deployment Site Survey (PDSS) to Iraq on March 25, 2005. The PDSS allows leaders of the 2BCT to meet and gather information from their counterparts in the Middle East.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Sgt. Justin Nelson throws a grenade at an enemy bunker as Pfc. Randy Watson takes cover. They are attached to 2nd BN 222nd FA out of Utah.

Picture by CPT Alfred A. Smith.



Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) John E. Spisso takes time to talk with soldiers from A-109th Infantry prior to the soldiers conducting Theater Immersion Training. Mr. Spisso, a decorated war veteran in the United States Army, was appointed as the CASA for Pennsylvania Western Region in 1995.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Spc Kimberly A. Calvert, of Trout Run, PA., and Spc Hope M. Detweiler of Emporium, PA, test the seals of their gas masks in the CS Gas Chamber.

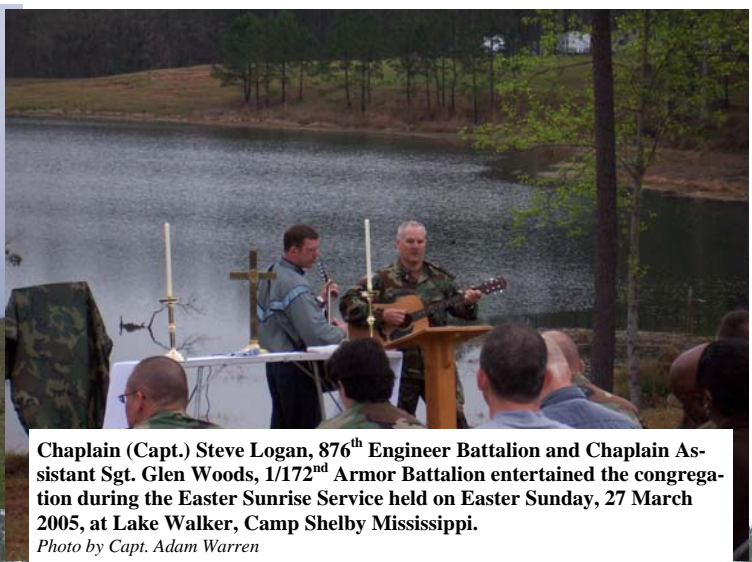
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brent Adams HHC, 2BCT



Send your pics to SFC Scary (Richard.Scaricaciottoli@us.army.mil) Include a brief description and who took the pic.



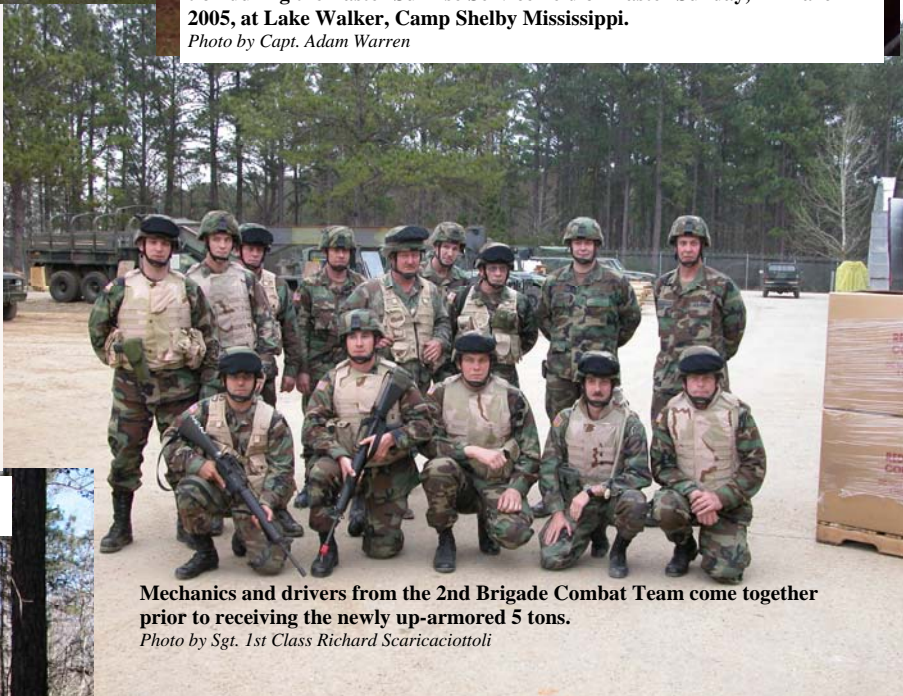
Soldiers of B Co 1-109th INF (M) from Pennsylvania conduct realistic MedEvac Training utilizing Bradley Fighting Vehicles and Air Ambulance UH-1 Huey Helicopters.
Photo by Capt. Adam Warren



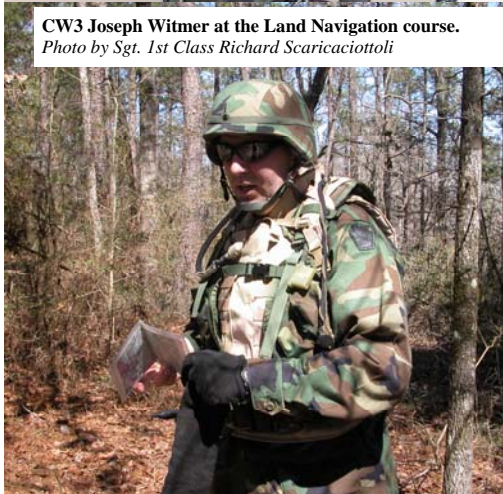
Chaplain (Capt.) Steve Logan, 876th Engineer Battalion and Chaplain Assistant Sgt. Glen Woods, 1/172nd Armor Battalion entertained the congregation during the Easter Sunrise Service held on Easter Sunday, 27 March 2005, at Lake Walker, Camp Shelby Mississippi.
Photo by Capt. Adam Warren



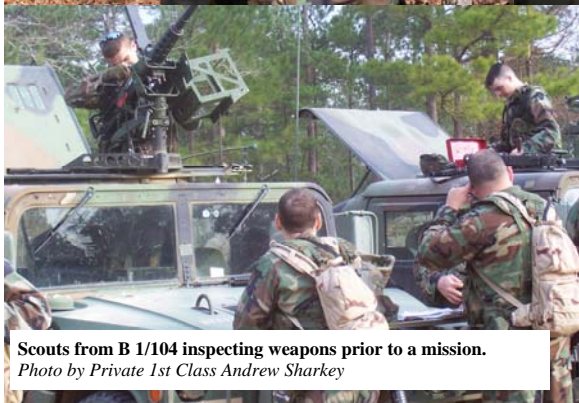
SFC Timothy Blesh of Rebersburg, PA sitting in newly up-armored 5 ton truck
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli



Mechanics and drivers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team come together prior to receiving the newly up-armored 5 tons.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli



CW3 Joseph Witmer at the Land Navigation course.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli



Scouts from B 1/104 inspecting weapons prior to a mission.
Photo by Private 1st Class Andrew Sharkey



Members of Bravo Battery 2-222 Field Artillery in front of their M109A6 Paladin prior to firing a coordinated illume mission at FOB Hurricane.
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli

GAS! GAS! GAS! by Spec. Kimberly Calvert - HHC, 2/28 BCT

After spending two days doing Common Task Training and learning a variety of individual "go to war tasks", it all concluded with the burning of CS gas on day two. The reasoning for entering the gas chamber was to test the seal on the masks so the soldiers are confident with their masks in case of a real world situation. On 19 Feb 05, the HHC, 2BCT headed over to the gas chamber to get their sinuses cleared out. Even though the soldiers were walking into burning CS gas, the best was made of the situation. Groups of about 15 soldiers entered the chamber at a time and the soldiers spent anywhere from 10-25 minutes in the chamber. Once inside the chamber, the Observer Controller's (OC) had the soldiers doing a variety of tasks with and without their masks. With the masks on, a light physical training was accomplished to test the seal of the masks. They performed exercises such as overhead arms claps, side straddle hop, and knee benders.

Along with the physical fitness, the observer controller's went around to each



Soldiers from the 2 Brigade Headquarters Company about to break the seals of their protective masks while inside in the "Gas" chamber during Theater Immersion training at Camp Shelby, MS.

soldier inside the chamber and had them break the seal of their mask. The soldiers then recovered by properly resealing their masks. There were some hard core soldiers that had a push-up competition without their

masks on. They completed as many push-ups possible in a fifteen minute period. The most push-ups accomplished was approximately 125 by Spc. Block.

With a properly sealed mask, the task of going into and exiting the gas chamber is not a challenge, but without the mask is a different story. The effect the gas has on a soldier while they are in the chamber with a sealed mask is a burning sensation on the open skin. Once the mask is off, it still is not bad, until one takes a breath. That is when the CS gas hits you. The CS gas burns your throat and makes your eyes water really bad. Even though the gas causes such burning, it has the amazingly positive effect of cleaning out ones sinuses.

All together, I think the consensus would show that most of the soldiers enjoy going into the gas chamber. It seemed as if every soldier was having fun with it.

APRIL 15th by the 2nd BCT Jag Office

The Judge Advocate Office reminds all soldiers that tax season is here and the filing deadline for federal personal income tax is April 15, 2005. A four-month extension until August 15, 2005 may be obtained by either filing IRS form 4868 or by automated phone service at 1-888-796-1074. This extension is not the Combat Zone Extension (CZE) but is available to all tax filers who need additional time to file.

Soldiers are reminded that once deployed to a combat zone they are entitled to a Combat Zone Extension

(CZE) for the period of deployment and an additional period of 180 days after returning from the combat zone. Prior to deploying to Iraq, soldiers should call 1-800-829-1040 and ask for the Special Services of the Military and then inform the IRS of your deployed status and obtain the (CZE).

PLEASE NOTE - Soldiers currently serving at Camp Shelby are not entitled to the combat zone exclusion for tax year 2004. This means that soldiers stationed at Camp Shelby must file federal personal income tax for tax year

2004 not later than April 15, 2005 unless they have obtained an extension. Tax forms for extension can be obtained from this office or on-line at www.irs.gov.

For those soldiers that need an extension to file for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the form number is REV-276. Forms may be obtained at this office or on-line at www.revenue.state.pa.us.

For forms or further information, the JAG office may be reached at 8-4113.

(Continued from page 1)

week. They worked this ferocious pace in order to add the precious thick skin of armor to approximately 46 HMMWVs and over a dozen 5 ton trucks by March 20.

"Learn how this equipment works here and now! Do not wait until you get to Iraq," said Commander of the 2 BCT, Col. John Gronski, prior to assigning the vehicles to over two-dozen anxious soldiers.

Mobilization Center Shelby is one of

three military bases assigned the task of adding protective armor to vehicles that will eventually be used in Iraq. "That's just an intimidating beast anyway. And this makes the soldiers and their families feel more secure," said Coleman, as the 5 ton trucks drove off from Motor Pool 5.

Equipped with over 4,500 lbs of Add on Armor (AoA), This M923A2 - 5 Ton Cargo Trucks will provide extra security and peace of mind to the Iron Soldiers when they arrive in Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricciottoli





FROM THE BRIGADE SERGEANT MAJOR

STANDARDS - SAFETY - LEADERSHIP



RELIGIOUS SERVICES SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

Jewish Services: 1930 at Temple B'Nai Israel in Hattiesburg .

SATURDAY:

Catholic Mass: bldg #804, at 1400

SUNDAY:

Protestant Inclusive: at bldg. #2404 at 0900. Also offered at different training locations by each battalion level chaplain.

Catholic Mass: bldg #804, at 1400

Latter Day Saints: On Post services available at bldg #804 at 1600.

Protestant Contemporary: bldg #2404, 1900.



Command Sgt. Maj.
Horace C. Pysher

As the 2nd BCT continues to come together with Soldiers from 23 states I want to thank everyone for the hard work they have done to maintain our Army Standards and the Safety of each other. This is not an easy task but it is a task that each Soldier and, more importantly, every Leader must work hard at because of how it will effect us all.

It is proven that poor discipline, which is the lack of enforcing Standards, in an organization has dramatic effects on that organization. It begins when Leaders fail to enforce the little things, which will then lead to bigger things. Reflective belts with the PT uniform may not be something that important to a lot of people. However, when a unit falls in for first formation you can get a very clear picture of that organizations Leadership. If the reflective belt standard is important to the Leaders everyone will be wearing one and everyone will be wearing it the same. That will be an indication to an outsider of that organizations Leadership. The unit can have great Soldiers but if the Leadership does not enforce the Standard, what are the follow on effects? If we as Leaders do not enforce that Standard, will we then not pay attention to chock blocks or weapons clearing procedures. As we begin to let those Standards slip, we are increasing our chances of a serious accident that could result in a serious injury of one of our Soldiers. Our Army continues to lose too many Soldiers because of those simple Standards not being enforced.

I have corrected Soldiers who were not cleaning their weapon properly and they thanked me for it. What does that tell you? It says that the Soldiers want their Leaders to do their job and they expect their Leaders to do their job. Enforcing Standard is enforcing Safety but it will not happen if Leaders at all levels do not do their job. Leadership comes with a price, the price of asking yourself each day have I enforced the standards to keep my Soldiers safe so that they can complete the mission I gave them.

Our destination requires each of us as Leaders, in particular the NCO Corp, to enforce standards so that each Soldiers can perform their job safely. Make the on the spot correction. Teach, coach, mentor and reinforce Safety. Safety reinforces Standards but both must have LEADERSHIP.

"Iron Soldiers"

Express Yourself

What makes an American soldier?

Why does he volunteer to go thousands of miles away, leave all the comforts he's come to know, and put himself in harm's way? Is it because of the prestige, the pride associated with being a hero, or maybe not knowing any better? I don't think any of these reasons define why. Well at least for this soldier and those men I've come to call my brothers.

This will be my second tour to Iraq. I was 19 years old when I deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. My country was asking me, a 19-year-old kid, for help, help as one of her fighting men. What an honor! Swollen with pride, I was ready to defend the country that gave me an education, a job – a way a life, and above all the freedom to do as I see fit.

I'm 32 now, with a loving wife and 2 wonderful energetic sons. And again, my country asks me for help. And again, I'm honored to fight for the Red, White and Blue. If for nothing else, I will go for my family, my wife and sons, so they can continue to enjoy the freedom we've all come to love. Again, I will serve with my brothers in arms. We do it not for the patch or the thrill, but for freedom itself.

Comrades, this is why we are soldiers, why we fight wars. So when someone tells you, you shouldn't be in Iraq, reply with: We do it for freedom. So you can sleep at night and wake up in the morning. We are your fighting men, and your welcome. I'm happy to be of service and to be a U.S. soldier.

That's what I say. Written by SPC Chad E. Olson (TF 1-110 IN)



Spec. Chad E. Olson from Greensburg, PA
Photo by Second lieutenant Antonia Greene

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HISTORY OF THE BRIGADE

HERE WE GO AGAIN

by Capt. Gregory C. Knight, Task Force Saber S3 Air - HHC 1st BN 172nd AR

As the Iron Brigade moves to completion of the first part of our collective journey into combat, it is important to note that this is not the first time that Pennsylvania and Vermont have fought together. Looking at our campaign streamers, you will see that we have been through other pivotal periods in our nation's history side by side. Both the Iron Soldiers and the First Vermont have distinguished histories dating back many, many years.

Vermont, like Pennsylvania, has a history of citizen soldiers that goes back to the beginnings of our country. Our Vermont soldiers can trace their legacy to the Green Mountain Boys of the Revolutionary War, and Pennsylvania even earlier.

While researching some of the orders of battle for the Revolutionary War, I noted many instances where Pennsylvanians and Vermonters were listed as states contributing their respective militias to the fight.

During the Civil War, units from our respective states were again called to service. Some historians believe that it was the Vermont 2nd Brigade that turned the tide of the Civil War in favor of the North, when they flanked the confederate charge under General Pickett at the battle of Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. During the Civil War, Vermonters developed a reputation for being stubborn in contact with the enemy. During the forced march to Gettysburg, General John Sedgewick's

order to "Put the Vermonters ahead and keep the column well closed up", reflected his knowledge that Vermonters would not break and run from a fight. "Put the Vermonters Ahead" is the motto of the First Vermont. While Gettysburg stands out as one of the foremost examples of Vermont and Pennsylvanian fighting together, there were other battles during this period of American history that reflect the same – Wilderness, Cedar Creek, Petersburg and many others.

During WWI, the Vermont Regiment was incorporated into elements of the 26th "Yankee" Division. Vermonters fought alongside the Keystone Division at Aisne-Marne, Champagne-Marne, and Meuse-Argonne.

Vermonters and Pennsylvanians fought together again in WWII, and bear campaign streamers from that war. Our regimental colors have streamers from the Luzon, Philippines, Presidential Unit Citation for action at the Ipo Dam, Northern Solomons, New Guinea, Central Europe and the Rhineland. Some of the same streamers fly from the Iron Brigade colors.

Here we are again, going forth together into the fray, to again exemplify what it is to be citizen soldiers. I have no doubt that we will all do well by the legacy left by those Iron Soldiers and the Vermont Brigade that came before us. Let's do this right and come home safe, mission accomplished.



Soldiers from Pennsylvania and Vermont fought together in many battles, including Gettysburg.

Have a story or picture for the Iron Soldiers?



Contributions from all soldiers throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team are encouraged for consideration. Please enclose a detailed description of the people (name, rank and unit) and subject matter for each story and photo. Include your name, unit and contact information.

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